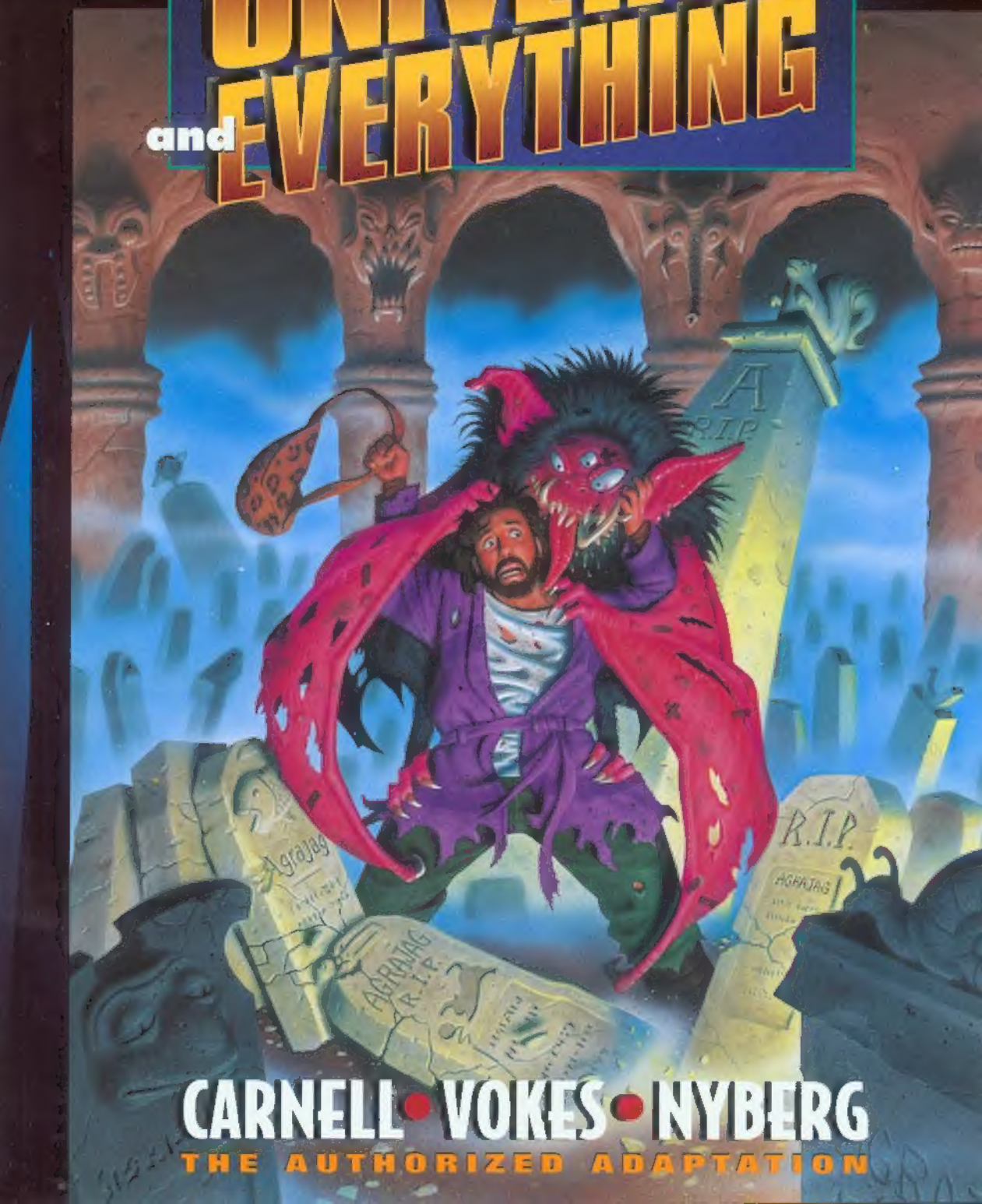
DOUGLAS ADAMS'

THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

LIFE the UNIVERSE and EVERYTHING

BOOK 2 OF THREE



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THE AUTHORIZED ADAPTATION

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Douglas Adams

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Book Two

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FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME IN LATE...

We've been asked to tell you what's going on with the story . . . *you know*, about that talking ape Arthur Dent, my froody cousin Ford Prefect, Marvin the paranoid android . . .

Talk about paranoid—those guys from Krikkit could give Marvin some lessons!

Yeah! First they're all *happy* that they're alone in the galaxy. Then they find out about the rest of the universe, and *whammo!* They want to destroy it all. Then they can go back to being a happy little planet at peace with everything.

Right. They're after the parts to the "Wicket Key" they're busy reassembling. Seems there are eddies in the continuum that keep popping stuff back into our space-time, like the pieces of the Key to the lock that keeps their planet isolated. Only they don't look at all like pieces of a key. First, they took Marvin's leg.

No—first they stole that stupid bag of wood ashes from Earth, at Lords Cricket Grounds.

That's right! That's where Ford and Arthur showed up after *they'd* been swept away by eddies in the space-time continuum.

Was that before or after Trillian decided to go sightseeing without me? I was a bit grogged out, you know. One moment Trillian and I are having a grand old time, the next moment she's bored and steps into a malfunctioning matter transmitter.

Anyway, Ford and Arthur wound up on Earth again, at a cricket match, only days before it was scheduled to be destroyed by the Vogons.

That's when Slartibartfast showed up again in a new spaceship he calls the *Bistromath*.

Right! Not a beauty like the Heart of Gold, but *crikes!* what a mover. Powered by "bistromathics," which is based on the strange reality one encounters inside of a typical restaurant. Like how the food ordered bears no relation to the final bill.

But how does it work?

Who knows? Ford says that you sit at what appears to be a bistro-type table with bistro-type food. And you pretend to eat it. But what you're really doing when you move a piece of pseudo-chicken around a pseudo-plate is activating the ship's controls. Strange piece of work!

Slarti showed Ford and Arthur some holographic illusions of the planet Krikkit. The Krikkiters thought they were totally alone in the universe because their planet is covered with a dust shroud and they can't see anything else. Then an alien spaceship crash-landed. Only a year later, they had made one of their own using the ship's technology.

Yeah! And when they took off and broke through the clouds, they saw the rest of . . . everything! And decided it would all have to be destroyed.

And in order to do that, they need to free their planet from the Slo-Time Envelope covering it.

Right. And in order to do that, they need to reassemble the Wicket Key. That's why they took the engine right out of the Heart of Gold. One of the pieces of the Key must have manifested itself as my engine!

I remember that! They took the engine—then they took me captive! After, of course, first rendering me unconscious. Otherwise I would have knocked those cats back into oblivion!

And that's where we are now, right?

Where? Oblivion?

Right! Pass the *Janx!*

Douglas Adams is the best-selling author of the HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY series. He is also known for his Dirk Gently books: DIRK GENTLY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY and THE LONG DARK TEATIME OF THE SOUL and, with John Lloyd, THE MEANING OF LIFF. His most recent books are the latest Hitchhiker's novel, MOSTLY HARMLESS, and a travel volume called LAST CHANCE TO SEE. . . He lives in Islington, England.

Christopher Schenck has provided his refined line work for Eclipse Comics, DC Comics, Dark Horse Comics, and Byron Preiss Visual Publications. In addition to providing pencil breakdowns for LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING, Christopher is the pencil artist of the Byron Preiss Visual Publications forthcoming adaptation of Roger Zelazny's AMBER: THE GUNS OF AVALON, to be published by DC Comics.

Painfully humble artist **Neil Vokes** has drawn in nearly every comics genre imaginable—including a few that haven't been imagined yet—and enjoys every one of them. He's drawn JOHNNY DEMON for Dark Horse Comics, JURASSIC PARK: RAPTOR HIJACK for Topps, Claypool's ELVIRA: MISTRESS OF THE DARK, CONGORILLA for DC, and many others. Now in his tenth year of drawing comics professionally, Neil lives in New Jersey with his wife and daughter.

Clem Robins got his big show-biz break in 1977, lettering a "Dudley Do-Right" story for Gold Key Comics. He works for every company that will hire him, and is attempting to get work from the others. His stuff appears regularly in HELLBLAZER, PREACHER, MISTER MIRACLE, and THE INVISIBLES for DC, THE ADVENTURES OF THE MASK and GODZILLA for Dark Horse, and THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN for Marvel.

John Carnell, born in Ramsgate, England, was very nearly educated at school, but instead chose the Never Ending Diploma Course offered by The University of Life. The published work that he'll own up to include: THE SLEEZE BROTHERS comic books and PET SQUAD, a series of children's books. His present projects include a radio series about the lost seven letters of the cosmic alphabet ("The Significant Seven"), an illustrated book of children's poems and a book of shark jokes called SHARK RAVIN' MAD. John's passions include: ornithology, drinking, collecting wild fungi, sex, swimming, talking to trees, and horse racing (although he's never beaten one yet).

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, **John Nyberg** has led a nomadic lifestyle, traveling around the United States while lending his considerable inking skills to a wide variety of companies. Ten years ago, John plunged headfirst into his first assignment—inking Steve Rude on NEXUS—before moving on to GREEN ARROW and PLASTIC MAN for DC Comics, DOOM 2099 for Marvel, and the adaptation of BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA for Topps. John lives in New Jersey with his wife, Amy, and is inking LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING because (among other reasons) it is one of her favorite books.

Digital Chameleon, headed by Lovern Kindzierski and Christopher Chuckry, has grown from two to thirty employees in four years. During this period, they've provided high-quality color services to all major publishers in the industry and continue to pursue higher levels of quality and performance. Current projects include LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT and the SUPERMAN titles for DC Comics.

PREHISTORIC CASTAWAYS FORD PREFECT AND ARTHUR DENT HAVE ESCAPED FROM PREHISTORIC EARTH ON A CHESTERFIELD SOFA...
...ONLY TO FIND THE UNIVERSE IS ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED BY THE OBSESSIVE PEOPLE OF KRIKKIT!
IT'LL HAVE TO GO!

SO, I'M AFRAID THAT'S HOW IT IS. OVERNIGHT, IT SEEMS, THE WHOLE POPULATION OF KRIKKIT WAS TRANSFORMED FROM CHARMING, DELIGHTFUL, INTELLIGENT, ORDINARY PEOPLE...
...INTO CHARMING, DELIGHTFUL, INTELLIGENT, MANIC XENOPHOBES.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS CHICKEN?
JUST TOY WITH IT. ANY WAY YOU LIKE.
WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?
BACK INTO THE ROOM OF INFORMATIONAL ILLUSIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF.
NO, I DIDN'T ORDER IT.

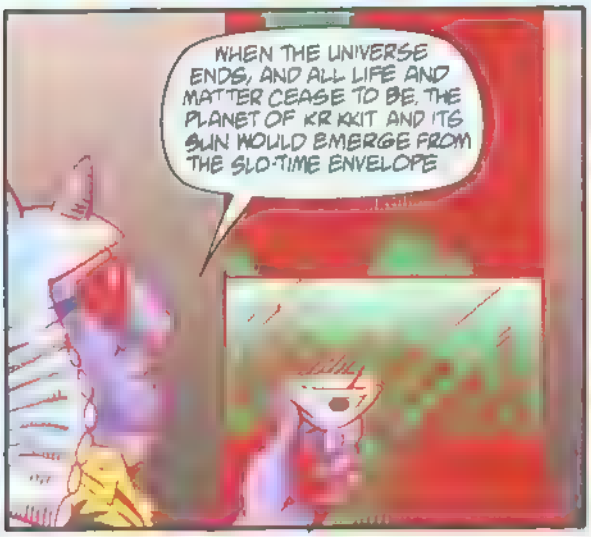
IN THE ROOM OF INFORMATIONAL ILLUSIONS...
THE KRIKKIT WAR CRIMES TRIAL...HIS HIGH JUDGMENTAL SUPREMACY, JUDICIARY PAG, L.I.V.R.*, SUMS UP THE CASE.
SO, THE PEOPLE OF KRIKKIT ARE JUST A BUNCH OF REAL SWEET GUYS, YOU KNOW, WHO JUST HAPPEN TO WANT TO KILL EVERYBODY.
HEY, I FEEL THE SAME WAY SOME MORNINGS. HELL, DON'T WE ALL.
"The Learned, Impartial and Very Relaxed.
OKAY, SO YOU WOULDN'T NECESSARILY WANT TO SHARE A UNIVERSE WITH THESE GUYS...
...I MEAN, THEY'RE JUST OBSESSED.

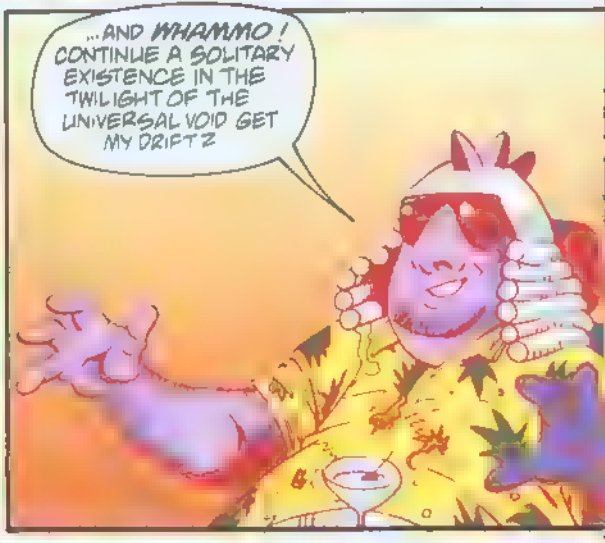
EXHIBIT "A"
UTTERLY OBSESSED. HOW ELSE COULD THEY HAVE COME UP WITH BEWILDERINGLY EFFICIENT DEATH MACHINES SUCH AS THESE...
...AND THESE, IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
EXHIBIT "B"
OMNI-DESTRUCTO ZAP RAY
MAXI-SLORTA HYPERNUCLEAR DEVICES
ULTIMATOMIC MASHER
OKAY, SO WE WON, BUT THAT'S NO BIG DEAL. I MEAN A MEDIUM-SIZED GALAXY AGAINST ONE LITTLE KRIKKIT WORLD
...YET HOW LONG DID IT TAKE US? CLERK OF THE COURT?
APPROXIMATELY TWO THOUSAND YEARS, MY LORD.
AND HOW MANY GUYS ZILCHED OUT?
ROUGHLY TWO GRILLION, SIR.
THAT'S A WHOLE LOTTA STIFFS!

SO, LIKE I SAID, THESE ARE A BUNCH OF REALLY SWEET GUYS, BUT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO SHARE A UNIVERSE WITH THEM...
...NOT UNLESS THEY LEARN TO RELAX A LITTLE.
OKAY, HEAR ME. IT'S LIKE THESE GUYS, YOU KNOW, ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR OWN VIEW OF THE UNIVERSE...
...AND ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN VIEW, WHICH THE UNIVERSE FORCED ON THEM, RIGHT, THEY BELIEVE IN...
...PEACE, JUSTICE, MORALITY, CULTURE, SPORT, FAMILY LIFE, AND THE OBLITERATION OF ALL OTHER LIFE FORMS.
I'VE HEARD A LOT WORSE.
FREEEOW! IS THERE SOMETHING IN THIS WATER?
ER, NO SIR.
THEN TAKE IT AWAY AND PUT SOMETHING IN IT! I HAVE AN IDEA.
FFASH

NOW, WHAT IF WE ENCASE THE WHOLE PLANET OF KRIKKIT N A SLO-TIME ENVELOPE, .N WHICH LIFE WOULD CONTINUE REAL LAID BACK AND EXTREMELY SLOW ..

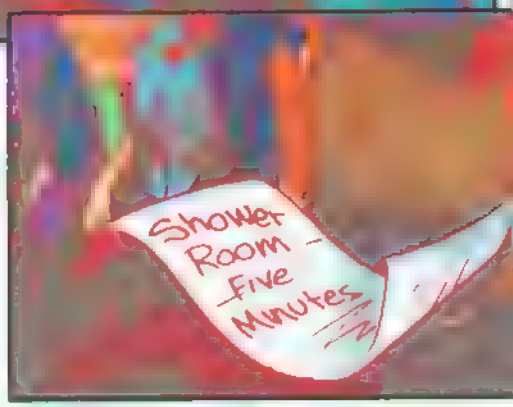
..THEN DEFLECT ALL LIGHT FROM ROUND THE ENVELOPE AND MAKE IT INVISIBLE AND IMPENETRABLE NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE UNLESS UNLOCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE, GOT ME?


WHEN THE UNIVERSE ENDS, AND ALL LIFE AND MATTER CEASE TO BE. THE PLANET OF KR KKIT AND ITS SUN WOULD EMERGE FROM THE SLO-TIME ENVELOPE


...AND WHAMMO! CONTINUE A SOLITARY EXISTENCE IN THE TWILIGHT OF THE UNIVERSAL VOID GET MY DRIFT?

WITH THESE DUDES UNDER LOCK AND KEY, THE GALAXY WILL ONCE AGA N BE A COO_ AND HAPPENN PLACE TO BE N

HURRAH!


Shower Room Five Minutes

IT'S THE GIRL FROM THE JURY AGAIN.. SHE SEEMS VERY INTERESTED IN LEGAL BODIES.
WEEELAAAAHHHH! YES
DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?
NO
YOUR KRIKKIT JUDGEMENT WAS CARRIED OUT TODAY
I HEARD IT ON THE RADIO WHEN I WENT BACK TO THE SHIP FOR THE OIL
: uhuuuh :
SOMETHING HAPPENED.
JUST AFTER THE SLO-TIME ENVELOPE WAS LOCKED, A KRIKKIT WARSHIP, MISSING PRESUMED DESTROYED, TURNED UP AND TRIED TO SEIZE THE KEY
WHAT!?!
IT'S ALRIGHT CALM DOWN.

THERE WAS A SHORT BATTLE. THE KEY AND THE WARSHIP WERE DISINTEGRATED AND BLASTED INTO THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM
APPARENTLY THEY ARE BOTH LOST FOREVER
NOTHING IS LOST FOREVER, EXCEPT THE CATHEDRAL OF CHALESM
THE WHAT?
ALL WILL BECOME CLEAR
THE TIME STREAMS ARE NOW POLLUTED THERE'S A LOT OF MUCK FLOATING ABOUT IN THEM, FLOTSAM AND JETSAM
SHE'S GONE FORD
MORE AND MORE OF THIS IS BEING REGURGITATED INTO THE PHYSICAL WORLD
EDDIES IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM, YOU SEE
SO I HEAR
LOOK WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO PREVENT THE KRIKKIT ROBOTS FROM REGAINING THE WHOLE KEY NEEDED TO UNLOCK THEIR MAD MASTERS FROM THE SLO-TIME ENVELOPE
IT'S JUST THAT YOU MENTIONED A PARTY

AT THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL TIME, WHICH I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT LATER
I NOTICED THAT FIVE PIECES OF JETSAM HAD PLOPPED BACK INTO EXISTENCE RECENTLY AND THESE SEEMED TO CORRESPOND TO THE FIVE PIECES OF THE MISSING KEY
ONLY TWO COULD I TRACE EXACTLY--THE WOODEN PILLAR, TO YOUR PLANET, AND THE SILVER BALL... IS AT SOME KIND OF PARTY
WE MUST GO THERE AND RETRIEVE IT BEFORE THE KRAKKIT ROBOTS FIND IT
NO, IF WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US IS TRUE WE MUST GO TO THE PARTY TO DRINK A LOT AND DANCE WITH AS MANY GIRLS AS POSSIBLE
AGAINST THOSE ROBOTS WE DON'T STAND A WHELK'S CHANCE IN A SUPERNOVA
A WHAT?
LET'S JUST GO, SHALL WE?
KER-PLUK
SLOOSH

TIME TRAVEL IS INCREASINGLY REGARDED AS A MENACE HISTORY IS BEING POLLUTED
TAKE THE CASE OF LALLAFA, WHO WROTE THE FINEST POEMS IN EXISTENCE, THE SONGS OF THE LONG LAND...
LALLAFA HAD LIVED IN THE LONGLANDS OF EFFA, WHERE HE WROTE HIS POEMS ON PAGES MADE OF DRIED HABRA LEAVES.
WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF EDUCATION OR CORRECTING FLUID.
HE WROTE ABOUT THE LIGHT IN THE FOREST, AND WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT
HE WROTE ABOUT THE DARK IN THE FOREST, AND WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT
AND HE WROTE ABOUT THE GIRL WHO HAD LEFT HIM AND PRECISELY WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.
LONG AFTER HIS DEATH HIS POEMS WERE FOUND AND FOR CENTURIES THEY WATERED AND ILLUMINATED THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE
WHOSE LIVES MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN DARKER AND DRIER

THEN, SHORTLY AFTER THE INVENTION OF TIME TRAVEL, SOME MAJOR CORRECTING FLUID MANUFACTURERS...

...WONDERED WHETHER HIS POEMS MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER STILL IF HE HAD ACCESS TO SOME HIGH-QUALITY CORRECTING FLUID...

...AND WHETHER HE MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO SAY A FEW WORDS TO THAT EFFECT

THEY TRAVELED THE TIME WAVES, FOUND HIM, EXPLAINED THE SITUATION, AND PERSUADED HIM TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT HE BECAME EXTREMELY RICH AT THEIR HANDS.

THE GIRL WHOM HE WAS OTHERWISE DESTINED TO WRITE ABOUT NEVER GOT ROUND TO LEAVING HIM, AND THEY MOVED FROM THE FOREST TO A NICE PAD IN TOWN

HE NEVER GOT AROUND TO WRITING THE POEMS, OF COURSE, WHICH WAS A PROBLEM EASILY SOLVED

THE MANUFACTURERS OF CORRECTING FLUID SIMPLY PACKED HIM OFF FOR A WEEK WITH A LATER EDITION OF HIS BOOK AND SOME DRIED HABRA LEAVES

MANY PEOPLE NOW SAY THAT THE POEMS ARE SUDDENLY WORTHLESS OTHERS, THAT THEY ARE EXACTLY THE SAME, SO WHAT'S CHANGED?

THE FIRST PEOPLE SAY THAT THAT ISN'T THE POINT SO THEY SET UP THE **CAMPAIGN FOR REAL TIME** TO STOP THIS SORT OF THING FROM GOING ON

Real Time Now!

SOON AFTER THEIR CASE WAS CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED WHEN THE NEWS BROKE THAT THE CATHEDRAL OF CHALESM HAD BEEN PULLED DOWN IN ORDER TO BUILD A NEW ION REFINERY

AND THAT CONSTRUCTION HAD TAKEN SO LONG, AND HAD HAD TO EXTEND SO FAR BACK INTO THE PAST IN ORDER FOR ION PRODUCTION TO START ON TIME

THAT THE CATHEDRAL OF CHALESM HAD NOW **NEVER BEEN BUILT** IN THE FIRST PLACE

PICTURE POST-CARDS OF THE CATHEDRAL SUDDENLY BECAME IMMENSELY VALUABLE

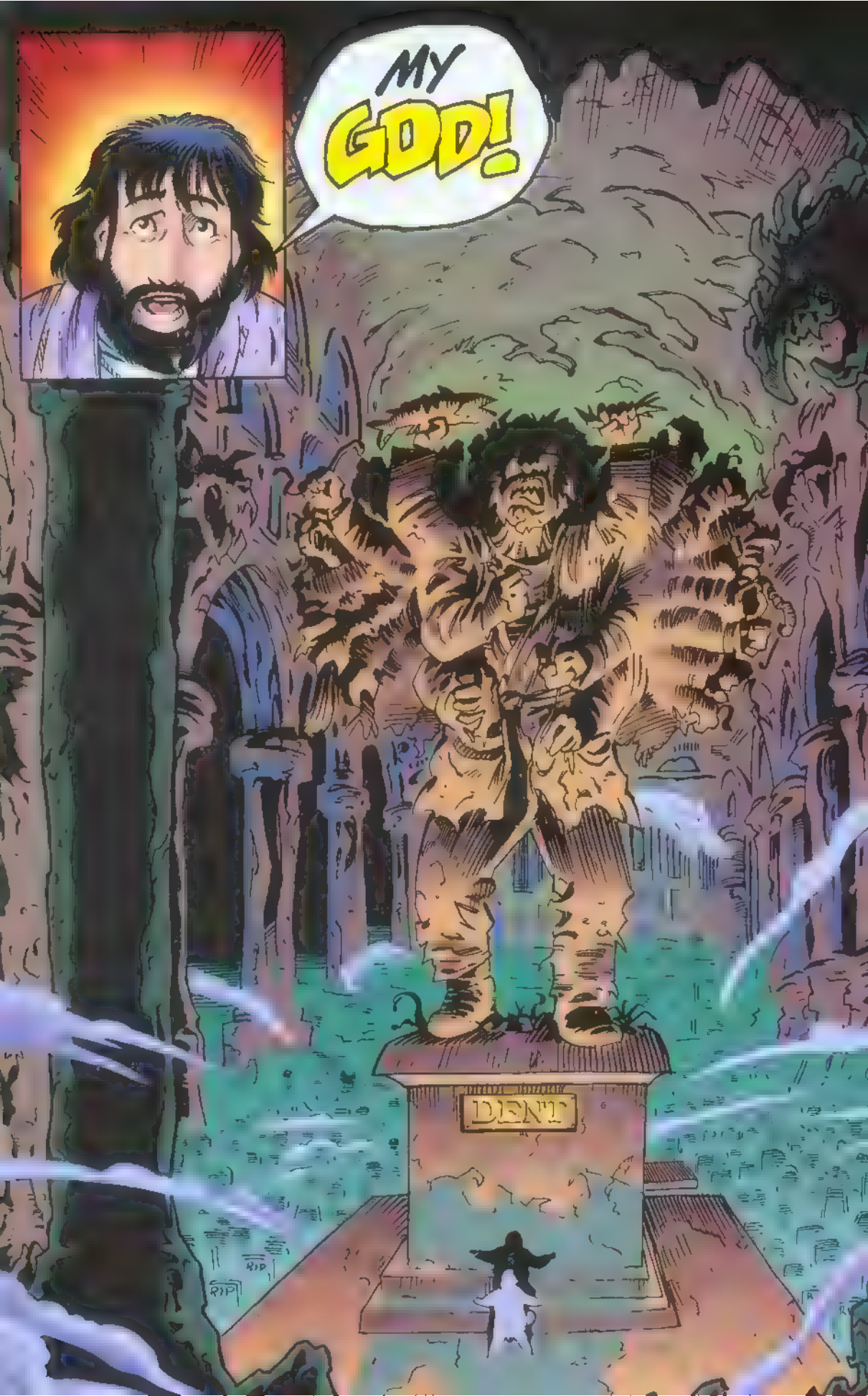
ELSEWHERE.
URRRRRG!
OW!
SLART BARTFAST? FORD? ARE YOU THERE?
YOU HAVE BEEN DIVERTED...
ARTHUR DENT, WELCOME...
ER, HELLO
...I DON'T THINK.
DO NOT BE ALARMED...
BE VERY, VERY FRIGHTENED!

I BET YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING TO SEE ME AGAIN?
AGGHH!
HMM PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER ME BETTER AS THE RABBIT
BORN IN DARKNESS, RAISED IN DARKNESS ONE MORNING I POKED MY HEAD FOR THE FIRST TIME INTO THE BRIGHT NEW WORLD
AND GOT IT SPLIT OPEN BY A PRIMITIVE FLINT INSTRUMENT MADE BY YOU ARTHUR DENT, AND WIELDED BY YOU
YOU TURNED MY SKIN INTO A BAG FOR KEEPING INTERESTING STONES IN!

I KNOW THAT BECAUSE IN MY NEXT LIFE I CAME BACK AS A FLY AND YOU SMATTED ME AGAIN
ONLY THIS TIME WITH THE BAG MADE FROM MY PREVIOUS SKIN
ARTHUR DENT, YOU ARE NOT MERELY A CRUEL AND HEARTLESS MAN. YOU ARE ALSO STAGGERINGLY TACTLESS
I SEE YOU LOST THE BAG GOT BORED WITH IT, DID YOU?
MEET THE NEWT YOU TROD ON THAT WAS ME TOO. AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
KNOW?

THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT REINCARNATION IS THAT MOST PEOPLE'S SPIRITS ARE NOT AWARE THAT IT'S HAPPENING TO THEM
I BECAME AWARE, SLOWLY I COULD HARDLY HELP IT, COULD I? WHEN THE SAME THING KEPT HAPPENING OVER AND OVER AGAIN
IN EVERY LIFE I EVER LIVED, ON ANY WORLD, ANY TIME I GOT KILLED BY ARTHUR DENT!
HERE IS THE MOMENT WHEN AT LAST I KNEW

TELL ME IT WAS A COINCIDENCE, DENT, I DARE YOU TO TELL ME IT WAS A COINCIDENCE!
SLUP SLUP
BUT IT WAS
IF IT WAS A COINCIDENCE THEN MY NAME IS NOT AGRAJAG!!!
AND PRESUMABLY YOU WOULD CLAIM THAT THAT WAS YOUR NAME
YES!
WELL IT WAS STILL A COINCIDENCE
COME IN HERE AND SAY THAT!


MY GOD!
DENT
RIP

HHHHRRRAAAHHHH
HHHRRAAAHHHHH!
I WAS AT A CRICKET MATCH NOT IN THIS BODY, THIS IS MY LAST BODY, MY KILL-ARTHUR-DENT BODY
I WAS AT A CRICKET MATCH! I HAD A WEAK HEART I SAID TO MY WIFE WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO ME AT A CRICKET MATCH?
AND WHAT HAPPENED?
TWO PEOPLE MAGICALLY APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR JUST IN FRONT OF ME THE LAST THING I NOTICE BEFORE MY POOR HEART GIVES OUT
IS THAT ONE OF THEM IS ARTHUR DENT, WEARING A RABBIT BONE IN HIS BEARD COINCIDENCE?
ERR YES

COINCIDENCE !!!!!
Gahh !
IT'S JUST LIFE PLAYING SILLY BUGGERS WITH US IT'S A COMPLETE COINCIDENCE
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST ME, DENT ?
NOTHING HONESTLY
SEEMS A STRANGE WAY TO RELATE TO SOMEONE YOU'VE GOT NOTHING AGAINST, KILLING THEM ALL THE TIME !
LOOK, I'M VERY SORRY, THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING I'VE GOT TO GO--I'M MEANT TO BE SAVING THE UNIVERSE.
AT ONE POINT I DECIDED TO GIVE UP AND STAY IN THE NETHERWORLD, AND GUESS WHAT HAPPENED ?
I GOT YANKED BACK INTO THE PHYSICAL WORLD AS A BOWL OF PETUNIAS
THAT LIFE ENDED A SHORT TIME LATER IN THE FRESH WRECKAGE OF A WHALE
...MY SPIRIT BROTHER.

AS I FELL TOWARD THE PLANET I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING A FLASHY WHITE SPACESHIP.
AND STARING OUT OF A PORT WAS A SMUG-LOOKING ARTHUR DENT
COINCIDENCE?!!?!
DESTRUCT
LOOK, I'VE GOT TO GO AND SAVE THE UNIVERSE.
...Tricky thing to do dead
SAVE THE UNIVERSE! YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE YOU STARTED YOUR VENDETTA AGAINST ME!
WHAT ABOUT THE TIME ON STAVROMULA BETA SOMEONE TRIED TO ASSASSINATE YOU AND YOU DUCKED?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN THERE
I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE AND I'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU, TRY TO ASSASSINATE ME!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO STAVROMULA BETA YET?
OH, ZARK! I'VE BROUGHT YOU HERE TOO SOON!

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU ANYWAY I'M GOING TO BLOW THIS WHOLE MOUNTAIN UP!
LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THIS ONE, DENT!
NO!
DESTRUCT
DON'T DO IT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL YOU!
GUFF
AAUUGGH!
YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN! EH? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME
BLOOD?
SMAK

KKWAK!
KRISS
TOON
RUMMMBLE

THE AVALANCHE BEGAN
ARTHUR SUDDENLY FELT THE FORCE OF THE WORD LAND-SLIDE IN A WAY THAT HAD NEVER BEEN APPARENT TO HIM BEFORE
SPANK
SPANK
SPANK
URHH!
CLOT!
AGGHHHH
SPANK
JUST AT THE MOMENT ARTHUR WAS ABOUT TO HIT THE GROUND
WHERE THE HE... DID THAT COME FROM?*
ATHENS
*ARTHUR DENT'S BAG LOST IN THE BAGGAGE RETRIEVAL SYSTEM AT ATHENS AIRPORT, TEN YEARS PREVIOUSLY
SPANK
IN HIS COMPLETE ASTONISHMENT HE MISSED THE GROUND COMPLETELY AND BOBBED OFF INTO THE AIR
SPANK
SPANK
SPANK
SPANK
SPANK
WHAT ARTHUR DENT WAS DOING WAS THIS--
--HE WAS FLYING

I MISSED THE GROUND! BUT HOW?
IT OCCURRED TO HIM ALMOST INSTANTLY THAT HE MUSTN'T TRY TO THINK ABOUT IT
FOR IF HE DID, THE LAW OF GRAVITY WOULD GAZE SHARPLY IN HIS DIRECTION AND DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT THE HELL HE WAS DOING UP THERE
SO HE THOUGHT ABOUT TULIPS
..OTS OF THEM
T WORKED
HE GREW BORED W TH TH.S TRAIN OF THOUGHT AND TRIED A NEW ONE
THAT MUST BE THE ONLY GREEK OLIVE OIL STILL SURVIVING IN THE UNIVERSE!
ATHENA'S

AND SO, AFTER A COUPLE OF PRACTICE SWOOPS
THE AIR THREW ITSELF PAST HIM HE THRILLED THROUGH IT
BUT THERE WAS A SUDDEN DANGEROUS MOMENT WHEN HE COULD NO LONGER BELIEVE HE WAS DOING THIS
AND THEREFORE WASN'T.

DON'T I HAVE SOME DUTY-FREE RETSINA IN HERE?
WHEEEE

WHAP!
THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY STATES THE LONGEST AND MOST DESTRUCTIVE PARTY EVER HELD IS NOW INTO ITS FOURTH GENERATION AND STILL NO ONE SHOWS ANY SIGNS OF LEAVING
ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IS THAT ALL THE PEOPLE THERE ARE EITHER THE CHILDREN GRANDCHILDREN OR GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN OF THE PEOPLE WHO WOULDN'T LEAVE IN THE FIRST PLACE

ANOTHER OF THE PROBLEMS, CAUSED BY SELECTIVE BREEDING AND REGRESSIVE GENES AND SO ON MEANS THAT ALL THE PEOPLE AT THE PARTY ARE.
ABSOLUTELY FANATIC PARTY GOERS
GIBBERING IDIOTS
OR BOTH
THE PARTY HAS ALSO DEVELOPED A COUPLE OF EXTRAORDINARY FEATURES
YEAH--}GHOK!{- SOUNDS LIKE A -}HACK!{ GOOD IDEA
THESE INCLUDE ITS ABILITY TO FLY --THANKS TO THE RESOURCEFULNESS OF A BUNCH OF DRUNKEN ASTRO-PHYSICISTS
AND BEING RATHER HEAVILY ARMED -IN CASE THEY GET INTO PETTY SQUABBLES WITH ANY WINE MERCHANTS
YAAA-HOOOO!
THIS TRANSITION FROM PART TIME JOCK ANTICS TO PART TIME DANCING PARTY CAME WITH EASE AND ADDED A BIT OF MUCH NEEDED ZEST TO THE WHOLE AFFAIR
HOWEVER, THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM FACED BY THE PARTY OR RATHER THE PLANET ABOVE WHICH THE PARTY IS IN ORBIT IS: WHEN IS THE DRINK GOING TO RUN OUT?

AND SO AS A VETERAN HITCHHIKER ARTHUR PUT HIS TOWEL TO PROPER USE
AGHHHHH
WHERE THE ZARK NG PHOTON HAVE YOU BEEN?
Err WELL, HERE AND THERE Y'KNOW

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?
IT'S THAT STUPID PARTY
THEY WON'T LET US IN WITHOUT A BOTTLE
WILL THIS DO?
NSIDE
WOW!

QUEEEEEE
KRAAA
KRAAAAP KRAAP A NEW PLEASURE! KRAAAP! A NEW PLEASURE!
DIDN'T I SEE YOU AT MILLIWAYS?
WERE YOU THE ONE WITH THE HAMMER?
YES I MUCH PREFER THERE SO MUCH LESS REPUTABLE SO MUCH MORE FRAUGHT
IT CAN'T BE CAN IT?
Sure Death

AND SO
WHAT DID YOU SAY ARTHUR?
I SAID HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET HERE?
I WAS A ROW OF DOTS FLOATING RANDOMLY THROUGH THE UNIVERSE
HAVE YOU MET THOR? HE MAKES THUNDER
HELLO. I EXPECT THAT MUST BE VERY INTERESTING
IT IS
HAVE YOU GOT A DRINK?
ERR, NO I--
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO AND GET ONE?
SEE YOU LATER, ARTHUR
TRILLIAN! ZAPHOD ISN'T HERE, IS HE?
SEE YOU LATER!
ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT SPACE IS HOW DULL IT IS

YES, IT'S SO STAGGERINGLY DULL SO MUCH OF IT AND SO LITTLE IN IT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR SOME STATISTICS?
ER, WELL
PLEASE, I WOULD LIKE TO THEY, TOO, ARE STAGGERINGLY DULL
I'LL COME BACK AND HEAR THEM IN A MOMENT
I THOUGHT SHE'D NEVER GO
COME ON EARTHMAN WE MUST FIND THE SILVER BAIL.
CAN'T WE JUST RELAX A LITTLE? I'VE HAD A TOUGH DAY AND TRILLIAN'S HERE
THINK OF THE DANGER TO THE UNIVERSE!
ALRIGHT I'LL WANDER 'ROUND AND SEE IF ANYONE HAS SEEN IT

HAVE YOU SEEN A SILVER BALL ANYWHERE? IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE SAFETY OF THE UNIVERSE
NOOO
BUT DO HAVE A DRINK AND TELL ME ABOUT IT
I LIKE THE HAT
WHAT?
I SAID, I LIKE THE HAT?
I'M NOT WEARING ONE
WELL, I LIKE THE HEAD THEN
WHAT?
I SAID, I LIKE THE HEAD INTERESTING BONE STRUCTURE
WHAT?
OW!
I SAID YOU DANCE GREAT. JUST DON'T NOD SO MUCH
WHAT?
OW!

MY PLANET WAS BLOWN UP ONE MORNING, THAT'S WHY I'M DRESSED LIKE THIS, IN MY DRESSING GOWN
REALLY?
YES, BLOWN UP WITH ALL MY CLOTHES IN IT I DIDN'T REALIZE I'D BE COMING TO A PARTY
PLEASE, DO GO ON
LATER, I WAS THROWN FROM A SPACESHIP STILL IN MY DRESSING GOWN, RATHER THAN A SPACESUIT ONE WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT
HOW FASCINATING
THEN I DISCOVERED MY PLANET HAD BEEN BUILT FOR A BUNCH OF MICE. YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW I FELT ABOUT THAT.
HAVE YOU SEEN A SILVER BAIL?
NA NA NA I LOVE YA ;HIC; YOU KNOW ME, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! ;HIC; WHAT'S UP THEN? ;HIC; I'LL KILL 'EM ALL. KILL THE LOT OF 'EM
I'VE BEEN BLOWN UP, SHOT AT, INSULTED, REGULARLY DISINTEGRATED, DEPRIVED OF TEA
AND RECENTLY I CRASHED INTO A SWAMP AND HAD TO SPEND FIVE YEARS IN A DAMP CAVE
NOOOO?
AND DID YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME?
CHUK

HAK.
HAK.
BLURK.
COFF COFF
YURK
COFF
WHAT A WONDERFULLY EXCITING COUGH DO YOU MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
COFF
COFF
COFF
COFF
COFF
COFF
KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH
COFF COFF HURRRRRR COFF
COFF COFF HURRRRR COFF
SO INVIGORATING, WHAT AN EXCITING LIFE YOU MUST LEAD THANK YOU SO MUCH
YOO HOO ROGER OVER HERE YOU MUST TRY THIS COUGH!
DID I HEAR YOU SAY YOUR NAME JUST NOW?

I'M ARTHUR DENT
I MET HIM
OKAY THERE'S THIS MAN IN A MOUNTAIN WANTED TO SEE YOU
YEAH. ONLY HE SEEMED PRETTY ANXIOUS ABOUT IT, YOU KNOW
WELL I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT
YES I MET HIM
I DO, I MET HIM
OKAY. I'M JUST TELLING YOU GOOD NIGHT GOOD LUCK WIN AWARDS
WHAT?
WHAP
WHATEVER DO WHAT YOU DO DO IT WELL
WHY?
DON'T BADLY WHO CARES? WHO GIVES A SHIT? GET OFF MY BACK, WILL YOU GUYS?
JUST ZARK OFF!

IT'S BEEN REAL
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT? WHY DID HE TELL ME TO WIN AWARDS?
JUST SHOWBIZ TALK
HE'S JUST WON AN AWARD AND WAS HOPING TO BE ABLE TO PASS IT OFF LIGHTLY, ONLY YOU DIDN'T MENTION IT, SO HE COULDN'T
SO WHAT WAS THE AWARD FOR?
THE MOST GRATUITOUS USE OF THE WORD "BELGIUM" IN A SERIOUS SCREENPLAY
IT'S VERY PRESTIGIOUS
SO, WHAT DO YOU GET FOR THAT?
A RORY IT'S JUST A SMALL SILVER THING SET ON A LARGE BLACK BASE
WOP!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK ABOUT THE SILVER THING
OH I THOUGHT YOU SAID "WOP"

WAAAYYAAAAAD
WOP?
KRIKKIT ROBOTS?
FOOP!
THEY STOLE THE RORY?
OF COURSE, IT'S PART OF THE WICKET KEY "RORY" TO SOME, SILVER BAIL TO OTHERS

WE D LKE TO STAY AND HELP ONLY WE'RE NOT GOING TO GOT TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE
AND F THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY LAME EXCUSE, THEN YOU MAY BE RIGHT
E THER WAY WE RE OFF
DO YOU MIND IF WE TAKE THIS? YOU WON T BE NEEDING IT
TRILLIANZ
EARTHMAN, WE MUST GO
TRILLIANZ
TRILLIAN!
THE GIRL STAYS WITH ME THERE'S A PARTY N VALHALLA--WE LL BE FLYING OFF SOON

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN ALL THIS WAS GOING ON?
UPSTAIRS, WEIGHING HER FLYINGS A TRICKY BUSINESS
SHE COMES WITH US
HEY! DON'T I GET A SAY?
NO! YOU COME WITH US
SHE COMES WITH ME
COME ON, EARTHMAN
COME ON SLARTIBARTFAST
WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?
I BEG YOUR MINSCULE PARDON?
I SAID, DO YOU WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?

DO I WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING OF IT?
MASH
YES! DO YOU WANT TO STEP OUTSIDE?
ALL RIGHT! OUTSIDE!
GOOD! THAT GOT RID OF HIM.
WELL, THEN I SUPPOSE THERE'S NOTHING TO DO NOW BUT GO AND SAVE THE UNIVERSE OURSELVES.
to be continued...

In issue #3 you will discover, along with Ford, Arthur, Trillian and Slartibartfast, the secret to Krikkit spaceflight and why they want to destroy the galaxy. You'll discover what Marvin has been doing since we last saw him, and how he gets to be the hero—although he still gets no respect. And you'll be pleased to see that Arthur gives up his galactic hitchhiking and adopts a planet.

Don't dare miss the stunning conclusion to the mind-boggling hunt for the answer to

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING #3!

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- How Arthur learns to fly . . . and the fat lot of good it does him.
- What's happening at the longest and most destructive party ever held.
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- How Arthur plans to defeat the Norse God of Thunder in a fight to the death.

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